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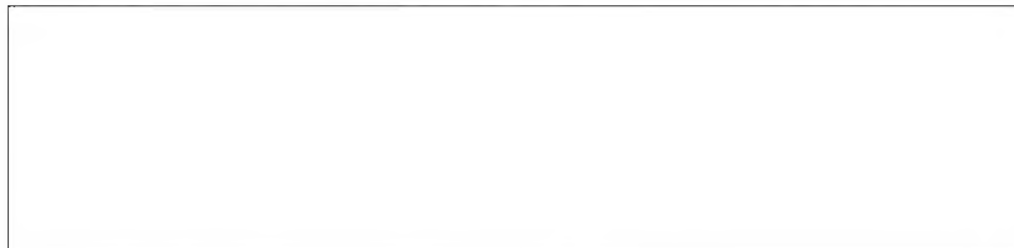
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POLAND: Suspension of Martial Law

Government officials yesterday said the regime has deferred the "suspension" of martial law to 31 December, with parliament scheduled to pass "necessary" legislation before Christmas.

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State President Jablonski yesterday presented to the parliament draft legislation that would lift martial law restrictions on internal travel, communications, and public gatherings. The State Council will be given the authority to reimpose restrictions nationwide or in individual provinces and, according to two parliamentary deputies, may delegate this responsibility to local bodies.

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Provisions for internment are also to be dropped, but, according to another parliamentary source, the regime may reserve special powers to extend the detention of certain individuals. Activists convicted of violating martial law regulations can, upon appeal, be granted clemency by the State Council.

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Jablonski added that some martial law restrictions designed to protect state security, public order, and the economy will stay in effect. Military commissars will remain in major factories and perhaps the mines. Restrictions on publications will stay intact, and the authorities will retain considerable latitude for employing security forces.

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The martial law ban on strikes will be lifted, but recent trade union legislation sets out lengthy procedures that all but preclude strikes. Workers who violate the procedures now can be summarily dismissed.

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Parliament may not act on the draft legislation until this Saturday, or, as one government spokesman has indicated, 23 December.

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Comment: The regime clearly is moving cautiously. The draft laws appear to set up a maze of legal regulations that will allow the government to do virtually whatever it wants and will not seriously erode its ability to maintain control. Premier Jaruzelski may be committed to a lengthy transition period and probably hopes that the prospect of the full lifting of martial law and a papal visit next summer will induce people to avoid protest activity.

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PORTUGAL: Setback for Balsemao

//The municipal elections on Sunday dealt Prime Minister Balsemao's Democratic Alliance coalition a setback, but the results do not immediately jeopardize his center-right government.// []

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//Nearly all of the returns are in, and the Democratic Alliance--a coalition of Social Democrats, Center Democrats, and Popular Monarchists--has polled 44 percent of the vote, down from 47.2 percent in the local elections in 1979. Balsemao's Social Democrats are doing somewhat worse than their Center Democrat partners.// []

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//The Socialists, led by Mario Soares, have increased their total to 31.4 percent, up 3 points from 1979. The Communist Party is retaining the support of roughly one-fifth of the electorate.// []

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Comment: //Although opposition leaders have already demanded the dismissal of the government, President Eanes is unlikely to consider the Alliance's drop of 4.2 percentage points to be adequate cause. Balsemao had announced he would consider a loss of over 5 percent to be a vote of no confidence.// []

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//The Prime Minister can argue that a small setback in municipal elections is to be expected. For example, he could compare the Alliance's showing after three years in power with the Socialists' drop by 10 points in similar circumstances in 1979.// []

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//The better showing by the Center Democrats, led by Defense Minister Freitas do Amaral, may result in an increase in their influence in the coalition. Freitas is reaffirming support for the government and is not challenging the Social Democrats' preeminence, but he says his party wants greater representation within the Alliance. Balsemao is likely to acquiesce, and recent high-level defections from his party will make it easier for him to change the cabinet to give his coalition partner a somewhat larger voice in the government.// []

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WESTERN EUROPE - POLAND: Allies' Reactions

//Premier Jaruzelski's speech suspending martial law had been anticipated for some time by most of the NATO Allies, and they have been advocating a cautious reaction to it. The Allies emphasized last week that improved relations with Poland depend on actual implementation of civil rights and reinstitution of the reform process. Most of them are considering brief "holding" statements noting the regime's actions while reserving judgment about possible changes in Western policy.//

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Comment: //The ambiguity and conditionality of Jaruzelski's announcement will reinforce the Allies' inclination to wait and see. A majority nevertheless probably would want the West to respond positively to any real improvements in Poland and improve relations in proportion to the degree of liberalization. If the Polish authorities do reduce the military's role and relax control measures, many Allies are likely to advocate acceptance of debt rescheduling, less emphasis on Poland at the CSCE conference, and an increase in political contacts with the Poles.//

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NICARAGUA: Helicopter Crash Tied to US

A Sandinista communique has implied the US is responsible for a helicopter crash that allegedly killed 75 children and linked the incident to alleged US support for guerrilla groups operating in the Honduran border region. The government has organized massive public protest demonstrations and has promised an investigation to determine if the helicopter was shot down.

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Comment: The incident has brought to light another forced evacuation of Indians from the border region to camps in the interior. The Defense Minister subsequently acknowledged that some additional 7,500 Indians are being moved from northern Jinotega Department, the scene of growing anti-Sandinista violence. In January some 10,000 Miskito Indians were removed from northern Zelaya Department. Many of the Indians probably are being relocated because of fears that they are sympathetic to the insurgents' cause.

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SOUTH AFRICA - ANGOLA: Results of Talks

//South African and Angolan representatives, at their meeting last week in Cape Verde, discussed measures to ease tensions as a first step toward achieving a settlement on Namibia. [REDACTED]

Pretoria proposed a mutual 60-day freeze on military activity in southern Angola, followed by a withdrawal of South African troops from Angola and a northward shift of Cuban, Angolan, and Namibian insurgent forces away from the Angolan-Namibian border area. South Africa would then reduce its troops in Namibia to 1,500 in tandem with a phased departure of all Cuban troops from Angola. Pretoria conditioned its proposals, however, on a prior Angolan commitment to the total withdrawal of Cuban troops.// [REDACTED]

Comment: //Although South Africa still insists on a total Cuban troop withdrawal, it apparently has backed off from its public position that all Cuban troops have to be out of Angola before any South African forces leave Namibia. Angola seemed receptive to the proposed disengagement of forces, but there was no indication it is ready to meet Pretoria's demand on the Cuban troop issue. Both sides evidently expect to meet again for more discussions.// [REDACTED]

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USSR-INDIA: Visit of Aircraft Carrier

The Soviet aircraft Minsk, accompanied by a cruiser, began a visit to Bombay, last weekend--the first time a Soviet aircraft carrier has visited India. The last port call by Soviet naval combatants to Bombay occurred late last year and coincided with Naval Chief Gorshkov's trip to India.

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Comment: //In addition to using the Minsk as a symbol of good bilateral relations, the visit presumably is also a part of a continuing Soviet effort to gain access to Indian facilities. The Indians, however, are unlikely to reconsider their policy of restricting Soviet port visits to ceremonial occasions. The Minsk's deployment in the Indian Ocean could last several months, and it presumably will make port calls elsewhere in the region.//

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SURINAME: Troubled Calm

//Most workers and businesses resumed regular operations yesterday, but the Bouterse regime still faces problems. [] the surviving leaders of the major labor federations agreed under duress to urge their members back to work. Although several calls for a general strike were issued last week, work stoppages failed to affect essential services.// []

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Comment: The labor federations' will to resist apparently has been broken, and the unions are unlikely for now to engage in any antigovernment activities. The general population, although intimidated, probably will remain alienated. As a result, Army Commander Bouterse will experience even greater difficulty as he tries to mobilize support for his regime. []

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